

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

NRC-05 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 MC-02 DHA-02 ACDA-07

OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 /089 W
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R 101752Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1099
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSOUTHCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4280

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NU
SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF SELECTED MAAGS

REF: STATE 201994

1. DURING ONE HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA IN HIS OFFICE ON SEPTMEBER 9, 1976, I INFORMED HIM OF THE NEW STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS (INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976) RELATING TO MAAGS, AS OUTLINED IN DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRED THE REDUCTION OF MAAGS TO A MEXIMUM OF 34 BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, AND TO THAT END THE PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE TERMINATION OF MAAGS IN THREE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (COSTA RICA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY) BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. I ALSO EXPLAINED THAT AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1977, NO MAAG (OR OTHER ORGANIZATION OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL PROVIDING SIMI-CONFIDENTIAL

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LAR MILITARY ADVISORY FUNCTIONS) MAY OPERATE IN ANY FOREIGN COUN-

TRY WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF CONGRESS. I ADDED THAT WE HAVE UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE MILGP IN NICARAGUA IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 515(B)(1) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED.

3. SOMOZA ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGH WOULD HAPPEN TO THE MILGP IN NICARAGUA NEXT YEAR. I SAID THAT IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO DRAW ANY DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS BUT OFFERED THE PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE TERMINATED ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE IN TERMINATING THE MILGPS IN THE REGION AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD, HE CLAIMED, PUT MANY COUNTRIES ON THE DEFENSIVE, AND INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY THAT LATIN GOVERNMENTS WILL LOOSEN THEIR MILITARY TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES, THEREBY REDUCING U.S. INFLUENCE. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SOME COUNTRIES OF THEIR OWN ACCORD TERMINATED THE BILATERAL MILITARY AGREEMENTS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. LATING REACTION DEPENDED, HE BELIEVED, ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE REDUCED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A DECLINE IN FMS AND TRAINING. IF USG REDUCES ARMS SALES AND TRAINING, THEN THE VALUD OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY UNDER RIO TREATY WILL DECLINE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SOMOZA CLEARLY VIEWED TRENDS TOWARDS TERMINATION OF MILGPS IN LATIN AMERICA WITH DEEP MISGIVINGS, HE APPEARED MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF U.S. FMS AND TRAINING IN NICARAGUA. HE CONVEYED THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN WILLINGNESS OF USG TO PROVIDE ARMS AND TRAINING WOULD RELUCTANTLY COMPEL HIS GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE FUNDAMENTAL RE-EVALUATION OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE BILLS, CLOSING OF OFFICES, MILITARY ADVISERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAGU04280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760343-0546
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760973/aaaacknu.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 201994
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERMINATION OF SELECTED MAAGS
TAGS: MASS, NU, MAAG, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006